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STATE OF IOWA  
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# IOWA DAY

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To Be Loyal to Every Interest of Iowa is a Patriotic Duty

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IOWA WEEK, First Week of October, 1917  
IOWA DAY, Friday, October 5, 1917

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Issued by the Department of Public Instruction for Use in the  
Public Schools and all Institutions of Higher Education

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## INTRODUCTION

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According to plans formulated by the Greater Iowa Association, the first week in October is to be observed as Iowa week.

### THE IOWA DAY EXPERIMENT A WORTHY ONE.

Fortunate, indeed, was the thought of last year that impelled us to suggest the observance of a day, especially set apart and to be known as Iowa Day. The people of the state were deeply appreciative of that inauguration; therefore, the thought that we are to join with the Greater Iowa Association, and at its suggestion, in the observance of Iowa Day during Iowa Week, is inspiring, to say the least. In harmony with the general arrangements already made Iowa Day will be observed on Friday, October 5, 1917.

### WHERE MATERIAL FOR USE DURING IOWA WEEK AND ON IOWA DAY MAY BE FOUND.

Material may be found wherever Iowa people, Iowa products and Iowa interests are to be found. Iowa people are approachable, her wares and products are on every hand and her interests are world-wide. While much of the material in the Iowa Day booklet, issued last year, may have been used, yet there is no danger in using the same material again; however, it is more than likely that there is material in that booklet still remaining unused. By addressing the Secretary of the Greater Iowa Association at Davenport, the Secretary of the Greater Des Moines Committee at Des Moines, or the Secretary of the Iowa State Board of Agriculture at Des Moines, it is altogether possible to secure much valuable material for use on Iowa Day and during Iowa Week. Again, there are the valuable bulletins and booklets issued by the state schools of Iowa and by many of the colleges of the state.

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Miss Pearl Bennett, of the West Des Moines High School, proposes a special feature in four parts: A student dressed in the garb of an automobilist with goggles, linen duster and probably carrying a blown out tire casing, will memorize and deliver a short story on Iowa's road

progress and what we have in mind for road development in the immediate future.

Another student attired in the garb of a scholar will present the status of Iowa from an educational standpoint.

Another lad in overalls, skull cap and carrying a monkey wrench will tell the story of Iowa's manufacturing development and point out the practicality of Iowans taking a deeper interest in Iowa-made goods.

The fourth boy will represent the Iowa farmer and recite of the prowess of Iowa in the realm of agriculture.

Note—The stories on Agriculture, Manufacturing and Good Roads, as well as the Summary, were supplied by the Greater Iowa Association.

# THE EDUCATIONAL STORY OF IOWA

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The number of one-room rural schools in the state is about 11,400. There are 235 Consolidated School Districts and 707 approved graded and high schools in Iowa.

## CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOLS IN IOWA.

There are 28 consolidated districts organized in the open country, 4 districts include towns of over a thousand population, 27 districts include towns of less than one thousand population but with more than 500 inhabitants, and there are 159 districts that include small towns or villages where the population is less than five hundred.

The Consolidated school buildings are, in most instances, located on a suitable site adjoining the town or village and each site consists of five acres as the minimum amount of land. Fifteen districts have provided a superintendent's or teachers' home and several districts have arranged to employ the teacher of agriculture for the entire year. The Consolidated schools are maintaining good high schools with courses of study covering from two to four years of work. Community center activities are carried on at the school buildings quite generally in consolidated districts.

## APPROVED GRADED AND HIGH SCHOOLS.

The Department of Public Instruction is carrying on a program of standardization to increase the efficiency of the graded and high schools of the state. This program centers about the Free Tuition Law, guaranteeing a high school education to every boy and girl at the expense of his residence district. In order that a school may have the privilege of receiving tuition money from the districts of non-resident students, it must be approved by the Department of Public Instruction.

As a result of this activity, remarkable improvement has been stimulated in the buildings and equipment of such schools; courses of study have been vitalized; qualifications

of teachers raised, and more efficient organization and administration effected. This year there is a total of 707 approved schools enrolling 91 per cent of the school population in the village, town, city and consolidated districts of Iowa.

The most notable growth since the forward movement began is in the increase in the number of four year high schools. There are now over 550 schools maintaining standard four-year high school courses and more than 200 having added one or more years of approved high school work. Approximately 30,000 boys and girls are thus given the opportunity of receiving an additional year of high school training in their home or neighboring school districts. Moreover, there are over 12,000 students whose tuition in approved schools is paid by their resident districts. These, together with over 225,000 children of school age, living in the 707 districts maintaining such approved schools, are the direct beneficiaries of the Iowa plan of standardization.

#### NORMAL TRAINING HIGH SCHOOLS.

In keeping with the practice in twenty-one states, Iowa is offering courses of training for rural school teachers in selected high schools. This work was begun in forty high schools in the fall of 1911 when 593 pupils enrolled. The demand for these courses is heavy and always has exceeded the number possible to designate. Today there are 168 high schools offering such courses with 3,700 students enrolled. This work is given in the last two years of a four year high school course. Upon graduation a certificate to teach is granted.

Holders of normal training high school certificates now fill one rural school in six in the state. Their training is very beneficial, for county superintendents, directors, and patrons unanimously report that these teachers conduct better schools in every respect than untrained beginners.

For the encouragement of such work in high schools the State of Iowa offers financial aid to the amount of \$750 annually to each high school designated to carry on the course under regulations of the Department of Public Instruction. The local high school is stimulated by the supervision from the state, a large number of earnest and deserving students are given definite help and encouragement in the important work



they wish to do, and a like number of rural communities receive direct benefit through better schools. No more potent activities for the welfare of a state can be undertaken than those that affect its rural schools.

#### TRAINING FOR USEFUL EMPLOYMENT.

Iowa recognizes the great need for vitalized courses of study. To this end every effort has been made to connect up the activities of the school with the activities of the farm, the shop and the home. The Thirty-fifth General Assembly passed an Act requiring the teaching of Elementary Agriculture, Manual Training and Domestic Science in all of the schools of the state. This was a good beginning. Today, Iowa is launching upon a constructive program to co-operate with the Federal government in the work of providing an army of trained workers. The Thirty-seventh General Assembly passed a law enabling the state to accept Federal aid for vocational education under the provisions of the Smith-Hughes Act. The newly created State Board for Vocational Education is organizing the educational agencies of the state so that by a system of co-operation among these agencies, Iowa will offer opportunities for training in Agriculture, Home Economics and Trade and Industry strictly on the basis of training for useful employment.

#### THE PRESENT DEMAND IS FOR TRAINED WORKERS.

The crying need of the present time is for trained men and women,—skilled workers in specialized science. The forces for agricultural work are all too limited. There is a scarcity of the technically trained supervisor. There are vacant places in the laboratories, at the forges and behind the lathe tables. The idle tools of the artist and the artisan all await the touch of the skilled manipulator.

#### AMERICA IS ENGAGED IN VERY SERIOUS BUSINESS.

These things strike us with too little seriousness. Many a skilled worker has listened to the higher call of duty. He waited not for the call of the bugle or the awakening impulse of the cannon's roar, but the patriotic spirit within him bade him move out and up to greater tasks and more serious undertakings. These things are real, not imaginary; how shall conditions thus created be met, except by a far-sighted policy

of the individual, the state and the nation, which shall require the boys and girls, not yet through college, to attend and to so continue to do until, by thorough preparation they are ready to step into the vacant places so patriotically made.

#### ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL AND COLLEGE AN URGENT NEED.

This attendance upon the duties of the school and the college is a duty we owe our community, our state, our nation and our posterity. This, then, is the call to duty. It may require the test of the best heroism; yes, even sacrifice of the gravest kind. Here lies the path of duty and sacrifice: there the road to pleasure and lack of responsibility; which shall we take?

#### THE CALL TO SERVICE IS WORLD-WIDE.

When the frightfulness of this World War is over the necessity for trained hands, thoughtful minds and inspired hearts will yet be apparent; therefore, the greater need for present preparation. The call for service will not come alone from the different sections of this land of ours; it will come from afar and will be vibrant with a desire for human aid in the social, moral and industrial uplift that must needs follow every world catastrophe.

#### A REASONABLE PRIDE SHOULD POSSESS US.

May we take a genuine pride in the observance of Iowa Day and Iowa Week. The time is opportune; the cause is a just one and Iowa people may be expected to measure up to the full stature of real patriots. To observe this special day and this Iowa Week should not be considered in the light of a task; it is a duty and may that duty be performed with the highest degree of patriotic efficiency.

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## AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is the great basic industry of the world. Whatever else we do it is very necessary that we eat. We cannot eat without food and the extent and variety of food depends upon the richness of our soil and the progress of our agriculture.

This is no new thought—it has been true since the very beginning of things. Two hundred years ago Dean Swift, one of the most profound writers said: “And he gave it for his opinion, that whoever could make two ears of corn, or two blades of grass to grow upon a spot of ground where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind and do more essential service to his country, than the whole race of politicians put together.”

The progress of nations throughout all history has been in proportion to the progress in agriculture.

Many sections of land in the world are very productive. The Mohawk Valley in New York State was once the garden spot of this continent. The soils of Virginia and Louisiana have produced wonderfully well. We are told that in the vicinity of the Delta of the Nile the soil is wonderfully rich but a very careful investigation recently made has shown that there is no section of land on the earth's surface, equal in area, as productive as Iowa.

Iowa's area is approximately 56,000 square miles. Over ninety-nine per cent of this entire area is productive. No other section of the world can compare with this.

Advanced information sent out by the Greater Iowa Association indicates that in 1917 Iowa's agricultural production will exceed any production from an equal area of land in the history of the world.

But the soil of Iowa has been mined rather than farmed. Year after year crops have been grown on this wonderfully rich Iowa soil, and very little attention has been paid to maintaining the fertility of the soil. Today there is a state wide movement which is urging the agriculturists of Iowa to stop mining the soil but to return to it every year the basis of a continued fertility.

The farmers of New England robbed their soil and during the last twenty-five years New England has been dotted with deserted farm houses. The Mohawk Valley in New York State once led this country in production. During the last fifty years it has been steadily declining. But the Chinese have been tilling the same soil for four thousand years and they have been returning fertility to the soil with the result that today the production per acre in China is as good as it was twenty centuries ago,—and it ranks well with the most productive land anywhere.

Iowa leads the world in agriculture. Her products, including live stock, farm crops, dairy and poultry products, wool, etc. aggregate more than \$1,200,000,000 a year or \$100,000,000 per month. These are big figures but they do not represent what Iowa can do if its farming becomes a little less extensive and a little more intensive and we change our policy of mining the soil to one of farming the soil.

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## MANUFACTURING

A great many years ago there were no factories anywhere. In the beginning of things all men and women tilled the soil for their food, made their clothing from materials they could obtain themselves and supplied their other needs individually.

Gradually there developed amongst different groups of peoples, men or women who were particularly expert in doing some one thing, such as making sandals or stone axes.

The next progressive step was for the man who could make the best stone ax to negotiate with the man who could make the best sandals and bring about an exchange of their products. Then money was invented and it was used as a medium of exchange. This permitted the man who was an expert in making sandals to make many pairs and sell them, using the money to buy food and other articles of clothing which he himself did not have time to make or grow. That was the beginning of manufacture. Since that time we have been specializing and today our young men and young women go to special schools and take special studies which will enable them to become expert in the manufacture of some one article. In this way we get better shoes, better clothes—and undoubtedly more food than we would if each of us had to depend upon our own individual skill and energy to make or grow things.

History has proven that no people, whether they be state or nation, has ever made permanent development without giving a fair share of its energy to manufacturing. Iowa is not a great manufacturing state because Iowa is still young. Many of the Iowans living today were the men and women who drove ox teams and prairie schooners into Iowa and broke the virgin soil, fought the Indians and developed its agriculture.

But Iowa is developing rapidly as a manufacturing state. Last year the products of its 2,500 factories represented a value of nearly \$500,000,000. Gasolene engines made in Iowa are being used to pump water from the blood-soaked trenches of the European battle fields. Iowa-made trench digging machines are helping to make those trenches in Europe. Iowa-made farming machinery is pulling the stumps and tilling the soils in Canada and Australia and South America. Iowa-made locomotives are pulling trains in Peru and China and Alaska—they helped build the Panama Canal. Iowa-made washing machines are in use in the Philippines and in London. Iowa-made gloves are sold in the best stores in New York and San Francisco and Iowa-made cream separators won the world's grand prize at the last World's Fair.

In other words, there is no economic or geographic reason why Iowa cannot develop her manufacturing until it is co-important with her agriculture.

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## ROADS

In years gone by, Iowa has had the worst roads in the United States. Many reasons have been ascribed for this but the real reason is that Iowa has the most productive soil in the United States. We hear a great deal about the wonderful roads in New England; the hundreds of miles of gravel roads in Indiana and Minnesota and then we wonder why Iowa roads have not been better. But back in New England and in New York State the farm land originally was all covered with stones and boulders. The soil itself had much gravel in it and before the farmers of New England could till the soil they had to get the stones piled up by the roadside. Many of the fences were built of stones. Then some inventive genius made a stone crusher and in order to get these stones out of the way they were crushed. The simplest thing to do with the crushed rock was to dump it on the passing roadway. Therefore, good roads in New England were simple of construction. In Indiana and Minnesota all the road builders have to do is to back their wagons into gravel pits almost anywhere along the roadside, fill their wagons and sprinkle the gravel on the roads.

But in Iowa the problem has been difficult. The rich black soil has enabled Iowa to lead all the world in producing crops—but it is the most difficult soil out of which to make a good road.

Today we have a very definite plan of road improvement. Our bridges are to be built of everlasting concrete and the sentiment is growing in Iowa that our roads should be surfaced with whatever material is necessary to carry the traffic every day in the year.

The Federal Government has taken a progressive step to help the building of good roads. The last congress appropriated \$85,000,000 for the Federal Aid Road Fund. This fund is divided amongst the states in fair proportion, Iowa's share being about \$2,250,000. This comes as a gift to Iowa from the Federal Government but in order to get that money Iowa must set aside a like amount and the total fund or \$4,500,000 must be expended under the supervision of the Federal Government and on the kind of roads of which the Federal Government approves.

The last Iowa Legislature passed a law directing the supervisors of every county to employ road patrolmen who, during the months of spring, summer and fall, shall constantly travel over the principal roads in each county filling up the little ruts and holes, see that the roads are dragged promptly after every rain and, in other words, keep the roads in perfect repair.

The story of Iowa's road building may be summed up in these words:

Iowa is spending \$15,000,000 a year to improve her roads and build better bridges. This work is now being done under the expert supervision of highway and bridge engineers and it is being done according to a standardized plan.

With the assistance of the Federal Aid fund and the constantly increasing automobile license fund, Iowa roads will continue to improve, as they have improved during the past five years and it is safe to predict that within ten years from now Iowa will be able to point to her roads with the same pride that she now points to her progress along other lines.

## SUMMARY

You have heard the story of Iowa's progress in agriculture, in manufacturing, in road building and in education, but a Greater Iowa, in the big broad sense of the term, does not mean merely an increased production from our soil or more and busier factories; it does not mean merely good roads and more and better schools; a truly Greater Iowa means a homogeneous combination of all of these things.

To achieve a Greater Iowa we must first acquaint ourselves with Iowa as it is today,—with its history and its opportunities. We must KNOW IOWA, and with this knowledge will come a more intense state pride and a deeper interest in what Iowa is doing and can do.

We, in these United States have received from our forefathers the priceless heritage of democracy,—a government “of the people, by the people, and for the people.”

Our nation, with her allies is today waging war against the autocratic form of government and for the establishment of a world-wide democracy. But a democratic form of government is efficient only in so far as the individual citizen is interested in the collective welfare.

The young men and the young women of today should realize it as their duty to take active part in public affairs; the business of their town, their county and their state.

The population of Iowa is equally divided between those who live on the farms and those who live in the cities and towns. By developing a mutual confidence and co-operation between these two great classes the consummation of the possibilities of our State may be fully realized.







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